



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

**TWO MEN SENTENCED AFTER CONVICTION FOR STEALING
ALMOST \$375,000 IN WORLD TRADE CENTER DISASTER BENEFITS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ALEXANDER D. KOLTOVSKOY, a/k/a "Alexander Kolt," and VINCENT M. PIZZI, III, were sentenced yesterday, by United States District Judge Loretta A. Preska, to 51 months' and 33 months' incarceration, respectively, following their October 2003 convictions on federal charges of defrauding various entities of World Trade Center related disaster benefits totaling almost \$375,000.

The convictions followed a two-week jury trial before United States District Judge LORETTA A. PRESKA.

According to the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, KOLTOVKSOY and PIZZI joined in a scheme to apply for financial assistance from several federal, state, local and private relief agencies, and also did so individually, by falsely claiming that their business, Alexander Edwards Global Search, Inc., doing business as Alexander Edwards International, Inc. ("AEI"), an executive search firm, had leased property and had

equipment at 2 World Trade Center ("2 WTC"), in Manhattan, and had sustained damage in the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

According to the Indictment and the evidence at trial, however, KOLTOVSKOY and PIZZI both knew that neither they nor AEI had any such property, lease, or equipment at 2 WTC as of September 11, 2001. In fact, as shown by the evidence at trial, although the defendants and AEI were at one time based in 2 WTC, they had left that location by December, 1999.

According to the Indictment, the evidence presented at trial, and the findings made by Judge Preska at sentencing, based upon their fraudulent misrepresentations and false statements, KOLTOVSKOY and PIZZI received financial assistance from the following relief agencies in the following amounts, all totaling \$373,228.06: Small Business Administration, Safe Horizon, Inc, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Empire State Economic Development Corp., New York City Economic Development Corp., and American Red Cross.

At sentencing, Judge PRESKA said to each of the defendants: "You really must be ashamed of yourself for attempting to profit from this monumental tragedy -- a tragedy that not only brought the war to our shores, but occurred a stone's throw from this courthouse, at a building that you went to every day for years. You really should be ashamed of yourself."

KOLTOVSKOY, 36, of Manhattan, has been incarcerated since his conviction in October 2003.

PIZZI, 48, of Mamaroneck, New York, was ordered by Judge Preska to surrender to federal authorities on or before June 30, 2004.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Small Business Administration, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of the Inspector General, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Inspector General.

Assistant United States Attorneys JEFFREY A. UDELL and LAWRENCE GERSCHWER are in charge of the prosecution.

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